REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims have been presented in a form which is believed to be preferred by the Examiner. It should be noted that claim 5 recites a <u>reference</u> to instance fields of an object. As such, it is clear that the reference can be used to access the instance fields. It should also be noted that claim 15 recites when <u>said</u> determining determines and as such is not indefinite. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

(a) <u>*Crelier* does NOT teach or suggest an object representation that comprises a second reference to instance fields of the object</u> (claim 5)

In the Office Action, the Examiner has asserted that pointer (421) of *Crelier* which points to a ClassClass descriptor (430) teaches a second reference to instance fields of an object (*Office Action, page 11*). It is respectfully submitted that pointer (421) of *Crelier* is a pointer to description of the <u>class</u> of the object and not the <u>instance fields of the object.</u> As it is clearly shown, pointer (421) points to a <u>ClassClass descriptor 430</u> (*Crelier Col. 8, lines 16-61, Fig 4*) which describes the class to which the object belongs to, but not the instance fields of the object. "Here, information about the class is stored" (*Crelier, Col. 8, line 53*).

As it is known in the art there is a clear distinction between a class and the object that belongs to the class. A class is a generalized category (or template) that describes a group of objects (*see, for example, Microsoft Computer Dictionary*). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection is improper and should be withdrawn. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that *Crelier* does NOT teach or suggest the claimed second reference to instance fields of the object.

(b) <u>*Crelier* does NOT teach or suggest the claimed object representation comprising first and second references and a hash valve</u> (claim 5)

It is respectfully submitted that *Crelier* does NOT teach or suggest an object representation including first and second references and a hash key for said object, such that the first reference references an internal class representation, and the second

Atty. Docket No.: SUN1P831/P6164   Page 7 of 8   Serial No.: 09/886.454

PAGE 9/10 * RCVD AT 12/23/2005 6:04:13 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/24 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:16509618301 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-04

reference is a reference to instant fields of the object, and the hash key identifies the object.

(c) *Crelier* does NOT teach or suggest a second reference of an object representation as a reference to an array of references, wherein each of the instance fields can be accessed by indexing the array of references (claim 5)

It is noted that an object handle (401) includes a pointer references a method table or virtual table (*Crelier, Col. 8, lines 16-17*). A method table provides information about methods. However, it is respectfully submitted that a pointer to a method table does NOT teach or remotely suggest an array of references to instance fields of an object, wherein each reference in the array is a reference.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the cited art of record. Additional limitations recited in the independent claims or the dependent claims are not further discussed because the limitations discussed above are sufficient to distinguish the claimed invention from the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. SUN1P831). Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

R. Mahboubian
Reg. No. 44,890

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
(650) 961-8300